

THE LOST ARTS.

Many Abandoned Because New Knowledge Makes Them Useless.

Not as much as we used to, but occasionally even yet, one hears of some wonder accomplished by the ancients which cannot be done now.

Not so many years ago it was quite commonly asserted that modern workmen could not quarry or, having quarried, could not handle stones as large as the monoliths of Egypt, and the writer has heard a public speaker of note assert that it would be impossible to handle with modern implements such large stones as were used in the pyramids or to join them as perfectly as they are joined there. Yet, when occasion arose, larger stones than any of the larger monoliths themselves were transported not only to the sea, but across it, and erected in England, France and America, and there are individuals today who might, if they chose, cause the transportation to and erection in this country of the largest pyramids or build new ones ten times larger and more durable. Pyramids are not being generally built nowadays because they are not in line with the trend of modern ambition; that's all.

It is very doubtful if a "Damascus blade" would stand half as severe usage as a modern band saw blade or even as much as the spring of a forty cent clock, while the ornamentalities of those wondrous blades, so far as the mechanical execution is concerned, can be excelled by apprentices and amateurs of today.

Of the "lost art" of hardening copper little is heard of late years, though one occasionally hears a whistling from the wilds wish that he knew how to do it as well as the ancients, and while it is perhaps regrettable that he doesn't his ignorance is his own fault.

Many arts and devices have been abandoned because new knowledge has made them useless, and time spent in rediscovering them would be worse than wasted. The modern youth had much better spend his time studying the art of his contemporaries than that which is "lost."—Scientific American.

DON'T GET RUSTY.

Keep Your Moral, Mental and Physical Machinery Working.

The machine that lies idle is far more liable to injury than the machine that runs.

Air and dampness do more damage than wear and tear. Let the machine remain inactive awhile, and the coating formed by the corrosion soon covers the bright metal and the parts become stiff and cranky.

A man neglects the working parts of his body. Normally these parts should be exercised. He indulges his members in idleness. Whatever vitality and working force they may have had when in continued use, neglect causes the machinery to run stiffly. It is the rust.

A man may neglect to exercise his working brain forces. He may have ever so quick a mind, but if he does not use his mental machinery the rust of idleness is soon over it.

A man may neglect to use the moral forces that are in him. There is a weakening somewhere. The machine lets down. And soon the parts are rusted.

When the primary or the convention or the ballot box, working parts of government, are neglected the rust collects. The machinery works poorly. It may break down.

Keep your body working without friction by systematic exercise.

Keep your mind bright by using it.

Keep your soul clean by working it.

And so for society nine-tenths of its evils are caused by the idleness of its necessary working parts.—Chicago Journal.

A Shoe That Altered History.

After the fall of Anne Boleyn the pope prepared overtures of reconciliation so favorable to King Henry VIII. that he determined to accept them. A representative was sent from Rome with the dispatches, and when within a day's journey from Calais his horse cast a shoe and fell lame. As it was a favorite, the messenger determined to wait a day that the poor animal might rest and recover. Next day the journey was resumed, but on the day that London was reached Henry had been married to Jane Seymour, a Protestant. Anne had been beheaded, and all hope of reconciliation with the papacy was at an end. The cast shoe had thus changed the bent of English church history.

A Decided Opinion.

"I was in a railroad accident once," said a bishop, and I was helping an elderly lady from our wrecked car. Behind us came a noble looking English lady with her husband by her side. "She was scolding him well for starting on their journey on Friday. 'I told you, James,' she said, 'something would happen if we should start on Friday.'"

"Madam," said I, "do you know that Columbus set sail to discover America on Friday?"

"She looked at me with indignation and said, 'Sir, in my opinion it is a great pity America was ever discovered at all.'"

AN OLD TIME OUTING.

One With Which Samuel Pepys Was Very Much Pleased.

Samuel Pepys describes a seventeenth century Sunday outing, and the tale has a very modern ring to it. "Lord's day," he writes, "up, and my wife, a little before 4, to make us ready." And here he records his annoyance that "she was so long about it." Pepys then goes on: "She ready and taking some bottles of wine and beer and cold fowle with us." Coach and four horses from London to Epsom, where they arrived at 8 o'clock, drank the waters, ordered dinner, ate it. "A good dinner and were merry." After dinner, "the day being wonderful hot, to sleep."

Then followed a coach to "take the ayre," a shepherd with a little boy reading the Bible "with the forced tone that children do usually read that was mighty pretty." The shepherd "did bless God" for that boy. In Epsom town a "poor woman with her milk pail" and "did drink our bellyfuls of milk." Then to the coach, it being about 7 at night.

So pleased was Pepys with his day's results that he records his resolution, "Never to keep a country house, but to keep a coach and with my wife on a Saturday to go sometimes for a day to this place and then quit to another place, and there is more variety and as little charge and no trouble as there is in a country house."

FLAG ETIQUETTE.

Rules That Govern the Display of the National Emblem.

The government regulations provide that on the death of a president in office its flag shall be displayed at half mast only one day.

In memory of the soldiers who lost their lives during the civil war, on May 30, Memorial day, each year the United States displays its flag at half staff at all army posts, stations and national cemeteries from sunrise until midday. Immediately before noon a dirge is played by the band or field music, and the national salute of twenty-one guns is fired. At the conclusion of this memorial tribute at noon the flag is hoisted to the top of the staff and remains there until sunset. The idea is that the national ensign is too sacred an object to be long in mourning for any man or number of men, no matter how exalted their rank.

The flag reversed, with the union down, indicates distress. The flag on anything but a fort actually besieged should never be displayed between sunset and sunrise.

When the flag is to be displayed at half mast it is lowered to that position from the top of the staff. It is hoisted to the top before it is finally lowered.—Washington Post.

THE FIRST CIGARS.

Havanas Were Smoked in Paris as Long Ago as 1813.

When were cigars first smoked? According to a French authority, the weed in this shape was not introduced into France till the return of the French army from Spain in 1823. This fact is on the authority of Hippolyte Auger, the dramatic author, who writes thus in his memoirs:

"Our return from Paris was by way of Orleans. On the route we met quite frequently officers returning from Spain. They had generally cigars in their mouths—a new habit, since become general. From this point of view the campaign of 1823 had the good financial result of establishing a new branch of import trade."

Another document, however, carries back the use of the cigar to a slightly earlier period. The "Hermit of the Chasse d'Antin," 1813, going to see his nephew, a young officer at Paris, finds him at his hotel in morning costume and smoking a Havana cigar. The taste for cigars seems at this time to have been sufficiently extended to make them a common article in the stock of every grocer who was careful to cater to the wants of his customers.

Working the Old Man.

"Do you think her father will give his consent?"

"Sure! I've been playing poker with him once a week for the last six months and letting him win. He'll feel like he has been offered a pension when I ask him."—Houston Post.

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